

Claim 1 (Thrice Amended)

A method for aligning the optical beam path of a microscope, having a light source (1), a microscope optical system, a detection stop (12), and a detection device (13), wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- a) providing a center of the detection stop (12) as a first optical reference point;
- b) providing a second optical reference point wherein an entire beam path is defined by said first optical reference point and said second optical reference point; and,
- c) carrying out an iterative alignment of the light source until the entire beam path is between said first optical reference point and said second optical reference point.

Claim 12 (Amended)

A microscope assemblage, having a light source (1), a microscope optical system, a detection device (13), a detection stop (12) defining a first optical reference point and a second optical reference point wherein an entire beam path is defined by said first optical reference point and said second optical reference point, and said light source is alignable with respect to said first and second reference points.

Remarks

The Section 103 Rejection of Claims 12-22, 24-27, 30-31, and 34-35

The Examiner rejected Claims 12-22, 24-27, 30-31, and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,035,476 (Ellis et al.) in view of United States Patent No. 5,681,987 (Gamble). To the extent the rejection applies to amended Claim 12, Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully requests reconsideration.